

# SHOT TALK

Metro Health Immunization Program Newsletter - November 2019

<https://www.sanantonio.gov/Health/News/Newsletter>



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## In This Issue...

Pandemic Flu Exercise	p.2
ImmTrac News, VFC Guidance	p.3
Maternal Immunization Rates	p.4
IOEP Updates & Flu Resources	p.5
Other News & Resources	p.6

## CDC Releases NIS -Child Data

On October 18, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published data and results of the National Immunization Survey for Children (NIS-Child) from the 2018 survey year. Beginning this year, the survey format has changed from using overall data during the current year to focusing on a "birth cohort" of children who were born in the same 24-month span. For this year's survey, data was collected for children born in 2015 and 2016.

Overall, the report shows that among children born in 2015 and 2016, coverage was high and stable for most vaccines. There were sociodemographic disparities in coverage, especially by health insurance status. The proportion of completely unvaccinated children remained small, with only 1.3% of children born in 2015-2016 receiving no vaccinations by the second birthday.

Bexar County rates were higher than the national coverage rates and generally higher than the Texas coverage rates. However, the report shows Bexar County's coverage rate of 75.5% for the birth dose of Hepatitis B vaccine is the lowest rate reported in the state. Bexar County and Houston have the highest rates of MMR vaccine coverage in Texas and were the only two areas with coverage rates above the herd immunity threshold for measles.

**SUPPLEMENTARY TABLE 3. Estimated vaccination coverage with selected individual vaccines and a combined vaccine series\* by age 24 months† among children born 2015-2016,‡ by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) region, state, selected local area, and territory – National Immunization Survey-Child 2016-2018, United States**

National, HHS region, state, local area, or territory	N	Vaccine / Vaccine Series							
		MMR (≥1 dose)†	DTaP (≥4 doses)**	Hep B (birth dose)††	HepA (≥1 dose)	HepA (≥2 doses by age 35 months)†	Rotavirus§§	Influenza (≥2 doses)¶¶	Combined 7-vaccine series*
		% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)
US National	25,059	90.4 (89.5-91.2)	80.3 (79.0-81.5)	75.0 (73.7-76.2)***	84.7 (83.6-85.8)***	76.6 (74.7-78.4)***	73.6 (72.2-74.9)	56.6 (55.2-58.0)***	68.5 (67.1-69.9)
Texas	2,690	90.3 (88.6-91.9)	79.1 (76.8-81.3)	79.4 (77.1-81.6)	89.7 (88.0-91.4)	84.0 (80.0-87.6)***	74.1 (71.6-76.4)	54.8 (52.1-57.5)***	67.3 (64.6-69.9)
TX-Bexar County	384	94.2 (91.0-96.5)***	82.1 (77.3-86.5)***	75.5 (69.9-80.4)	92.1 (88.5-94.9)	86.2 (78.5-92.2)***	75.7 (69.7-80.9)***	59.7 (53.3-66.1)***	71.8 (66.1-77.3)***
TX-City of Houston	249	93.2 (88.6-96.5)	81.6 (75.3-87.2)	80.8 (72.9-86.8)	92.7 (87.8-96.1)	92.5 (80.3-98.4)***	76.0 (68.5-82.2)	58.8 (51.2-66.6)***	73.7 (66.4-80.6)
TX-Hidalgo County§§§	228	87.8 (80.9-93.0)	77.8 (70.1-84.7)	91.4 (83.7-95.6)	90.9 (84.6-95.4)	82.3 (73.7-89.4)	70.8 (61.4-78.7)	44.5 (36.1-53.8)	71.0 (62.8-78.8)
TX-Tarrant County§§§	256	89.3 (82.6-94.3)	75.5 (67.7-82.7)	78.7 (70.2-85.3)	88.2 (81.5-93.3)	81.3 (71.8-89.1)	69.5 (60.7-77.1)	58.1 (49.9-66.7)	63.7 (55.2-72.3)
TX-Rest of State	1,573	89.6 (87.3-91.6)	79.0 (76.0-81.9)	78.9 (76.0-81.5)	89.1 (86.8-91.2)	81.9 (76.7-86.5)	74.6 (71.5-77.5)	53.5 (50.1-57.0)	65.7 (62.4-69.1)

To view the full Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report with the latest NIS-Child data, including all supplemental data tables, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/68/wr/mm6841e2.htm>.



**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**Click here for more details on 2018 NIS-Child data**



# Metro Health Supports Multiagency Pandemic Flu Exercise

On October 16, Metro Health Immunization Program staff participated in the Point of Distribution Exercise (PODEX) 2019, a pandemic flu emergency exercise at the Alamodome, coordinated by the Metro Health Public Health Emergency Preparedness team. PODEX 2019 was part of a large event involving several state, local, and federal public health and law enforcement agencies as both participants and observers. The exercise demonstrated and evaluated a preparedness plan for a simulated pandemic flu emergency. The exercise also provided partner agencies an opportunity to work alongside one another, evaluating emergency management capabilities.

The Alamodome was temporarily transformed into a Point of Distribution (POD) to simulate distributing critical vaccines or antidotes from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) during a public health emergency. The purpose of the SNS is to provide medical countermeasures to the public during an emergency through PODs nationwide. During the exercise, Metro Health staff partnered with the UT Health School of Nursing to provide 200 no-cost influenza vaccinations to health department staff.

For more information about the purpose of the Public Health Emergency Preparedness team, visit <https://www.sanantonio.gov/Health/EmergencyManagement>. And remember to get your flu shot as soon as possible, if you haven't already done so!





# ImmTrac2 News and Updates

The Texas Immunization Provider Summary (TIPS) report is now available in ImmTrac2. This report provides each registered organization in ImmTrac2 an overall summary of the user activity, online activity, and data exchange activity for the previous month. Providers will be able to generate a TIPS report in ImmTrac2 under the menu panel. Look for the "Reports" tab (left side), then click on "generate report". You can then select "Texas Immunization Provider Summary (TIPS)" and access the report. The TIPS report will be generated on the first day of each month and overwrites the previous month's report.

For further questions on the TIPS report or ImmTrac2, please contact the ImmTrac2 Customer Support Team at 1(800)348-9158 or by email at [ImmTrac2@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:ImmTrac2@dshs.texas.gov). You can also contact the San Antonio Metro Health Immunization's Help Desk at (210) 207-5071.

## Vaccines Received Warm or Questionable From the Distributor McKesson or Merck

As a reminder to providers, if any vaccine shipment is received warm, damaged, or in a questionable state, you should contact Metro Health **immediately**.

Here are some examples of questionable (potentially non-viable) vaccines:

- Vaccine shipment received with temperature indicator strip depicting out of range.
- Vaccine is warm to touch.
- Ice/gel packs are melted.
- Ice/gel packs are missing.
- Vaccine is received damaged.

If vaccine viability is questionable upon receipt, follow the steps below:

1. Place the probe of a back-up data logger in the questionable shipment, near the vaccine and replace the lid to gain the current temperature. Temperatures must be checked frequently to see when the temperature stabilizes.
2. Separate the questionable vaccine in a vaccine quarantine bag and place the questionable vaccines in the refrigerator or freezer, as applicable, until viability can be determined. Do not write on the vaccine itself.
3. Contact Metro Health on the same day the vaccine arrives. If the responsible entity is not available, contact McKesson at 1-877-836-7123 and/or Merck at 1-800-637-2579 to determine if a shipping issue has occurred.

*Direct contact with the distributor(s) should only occur when there is a questionable **temperature** during shipment.*

4. Inform Metro Health of the determination of the viability of the vaccine.
5. Vaccine must be kept quarantined until instructions for replacement, reporting loss, etc. are received.

Due to shipping issues, vaccine returns are required to be sent back to McKesson within 48 hours. Merck requires that frozen vaccine be returned within 15 days of the original shipment.

If you have any questions about vaccine shipments, need quarantine bags, or inventory forms and supplies, please contact Anna Ledezma at (210) 207-4308 or [annaledezma@sanantonio.gov](mailto:annaledezma@sanantonio.gov).

# Maternal Immunization Rates Fall Short of Recommendations

CDC released a Vital Signs [report](#) this month entitled *"Burden and Prevention of Influenza and Pertussis Among U.S. Pregnant Women and Infants."* It presented the CDC's latest findings on rates of influenza and whooping cough vaccination among pregnant women. Currently, the rates for these vaccines are too low—only 1 in 3 pregnant women in the United States receive both flu and Tdap vaccines.

Providers shouldn't miss any opportunity to help pregnant women protect themselves and their newborn baby from these devastating illnesses. According to this report, flu vaccination lowers the risk of influenza hospitalization in pregnant women by an average of 40%, and also reduces the risk of her baby needing hospital care for influenza. When an expecting mother gets Tdap in the third trimester, it is 78% effective in preventing cases of whooping cough in babies less than 2 months old. Tdap vaccination during pregnancy is even more effective at preventing hospitalization due to whooping cough in newborns.

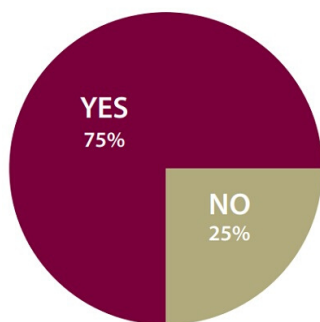
The report found that education, referring patients to a vaccine provider, and the recommendation of vaccination by a provider play a significant role in ensuring vaccine initiation and completion. Among women whose healthcare providers recommended vaccination or provided referrals, 65.7% received a flu vaccine and 70.5% received Tdap. By receiving vaccinations during pregnancy, mothers can make an informed choice to protect themselves and give their babies early protection.

Below are other key points from the report:

- Women with influenza are more than twice as likely to be hospitalized if they are pregnant, and babies less than 6 months old are at the highest risk of all children for influenza-associated hospitalization.
- The majority (69%) of reported whooping cough deaths are in babies less than 2 months old.
- Reported maternal flu and Tdap vaccination coverage rates were 54% and 55%, respectively.
- Provider recommendations are vital, but many pregnant women do not receive the vaccines recommended to protect themselves and their newborns, even when offered vaccination. The most commonly reported reasons for non-vaccination were belief that the flu vaccine is not effective (17.6%) and not knowing that Tdap vaccination is needed during each pregnancy (37.9%).
- Providers should start discussing the benefits of vaccination with women early in pregnancy, strongly recommend flu and Tdap vaccines to all pregnant women, and address women's questions and concerns about getting vaccinated during pregnancy.

For more information about maternal vaccinations and the findings of this report, visit the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/maternal-vaccines/>.

Women who report provider offer or referral for flu and Tdap vaccine



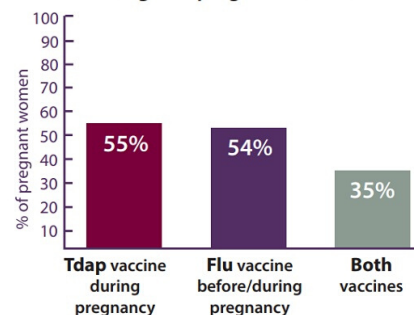
## 1 in 3

Only 1 in 3 US pregnant women receive both influenza (flu) and whooping cough vaccines.

VitalSigns™



Flu and Tdap vaccination coverage for pregnant women



# Metro Health's Immunization Program: Outreach, Education, and Partnerships Update

Metro Health's Immunization Outreach, Education, and Partnerships (IOEP) team has been developing and expanding the educational component of the program recently. Our staff have been working on developing new educational presentations for different types of audiences. We are able to present about immunizations for all age ranges to medical office staff, parent groups, or any groups of people interested in expanding and updating their vaccine knowledge.

If you would like IOEP to provide an educational presentation, please contact Sarah Williams at [sarah.williams@sanantonio.gov](mailto:sarah.williams@sanantonio.gov) or call 210-207-6917.

## 1. Who needs a flu vaccine?

a) You b) You c) You d) All of the above

Even healthy people can get the flu.  
Protect yourself and your loved ones.  
Get vaccinated.

[www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu)



U.S. Department of  
Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention

## CDC Flu Season Resources and Trainings

With flu season already upon us, the CDC has provided numerous sources of updated, current information for the public and providers concerning the 2019 - 2020 flu vaccine. There is an [entire page of the CDC website](#) with the latest information on this year's vaccine, virus strains, protective actions, and vaccine effectiveness.

Providers and staff should also take advantage of the resources below for professional training and patient education:

[You Call the Shots online continuing education \(CE\) – Influenza module](#)

[Pink Book 2019 Webinar Series - Influenza](#)

[Influenza Update 2019-2020 video](#)

Updated 2019 - 2020 Flu Vaccine Information Statements (VIS):

[www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/flulive.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/flulive.html)  
[www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/flu.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/flu.html)

[Free resources for professionals and providers](#) - includes infographics, printable flu information sheets, informational videos, and a graphic novel for teens.

Remember: San Antonio Metro Health publishes a weekly Flu Report on their website. This report provides the most current information available about flu activity, reported illnesses, and statistics for Bexar County. You can view current and past reports by clicking [here](#).

If you would like more information on updates or training for the 2019 – 2020 flu season, please contact Jared Dugger at (210) 207-2866 or [jared.dugger@sanantonio.gov](mailto:jared.dugger@sanantonio.gov).



Stay up-to-date on CDC flu surveillance  
[www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/summary.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/summary.htm)



**Check the CDC's Weekly Flu Surveillance Report by clicking the banner!**

## Other News & Resources

Australia Just Had a Bad Flu Season. That May Be a Warning for the U.S.  
- By Donald G. McNeil Jr., New York Times

With End of New York Outbreak, United States Keeps Measles Elimination Status - US Dept. of Health & Human Services

'Alarming upsurge' in Measles Worldwide Has Devastating Impact, WHO Warns - Reuters

## CDC Yearly Lab Work on Flu Viruses

More than 1 million patient specimens are tested in clinical labs participating in CDC domestic disease surveillance.\*

About 100,000 specimens are tested in 93 state/local public health labs.

CDC conducts full genetic sequencing on about 7,000 flu viruses each year.

CDC tests about 2,000 flu viruses to determine their immune properties.

CDC prepares as many as 50 viruses for possible use in vaccine production.



\*2017-2018 influenza data as reported by CDC's Influenza Division, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD)





CITY OF SAN ANTONIO  
**METROPOLITAN HEALTH DISTRICT**

# IMMUNIZATION SERVICES

The Metro Health Immunization Program offers vaccines for adults and children, including access to immunization records.

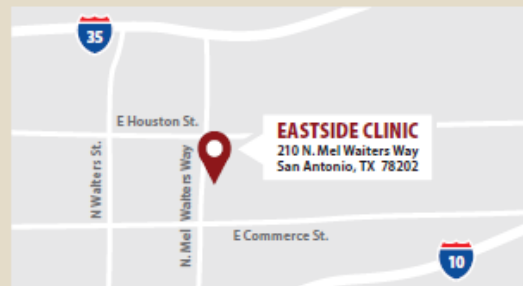
## CLINIC LOCATIONS

### EASTSIDE CLINIC

#### WALK-INS WELCOME

##### CLINIC HOURS:

Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
210 N. Mel Walters Way  
(formerly 210 N. Rio Grande)  
San Antonio, TX 78202



### FRANK GARRETT CENTER

#### APPOINTMENTS ONLY

##### CLINIC HOURS:

Tuesday & Thursday: 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
1226 NW 18th Street  
San Antonio, TX 78207



**Call for Appointments or Questions:**  
**(210) 207-8894**

**sanantonio.gov/Immunizations**  
**#ImmunizeSA**

\*Immunization Records can only be obtained at the Eastside Clinic.

\*\*We accept Medicaid, Community First Health Plan CHIP and Superior Health Plan CHIP. Please call to find out if we accept another type of insurance.